

Patrol

Order Number

41.42

Date

06-22-21

41.42 Deployment and Use of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)

41.42.1 General

A. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS). This document identifies the responsibilities, requirements, and operations of the department's sUAS program.

Unmanned aerial systems may be utilized to enhance the department's mission of protecting lives and property when other means and resources are not available or are less effective. Any use of a sUAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights, state law and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

41.42.1.1 DEFINITIONS

- A. Remote Pilot in Command (Remote PIC or Remote Pilot): A person who holds a remote pilot certificate with a sUAS rating and has the final authority and responsibility for the operation and safety of a sUAS operation conducted under CFR 14 Part 107.
- B. **Small Unmanned Aircraft (sUA):** A UA weighing less than 55 pounds, including everything that is onboard or otherwise attached to the aircraft, and can be flown without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
- C. **Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS):** A small UA and its associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the small UA) that are required for the safe and efficient operation of the small UA in the National Airspace System (NAS).
- D. **Unmanned Aircraft (UA):** An aircraft 55 pounds or more operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft (rarely if ever used by law enforcement, must review extensive FAA regulations if agency decides to use).
- E. Visual Observer (VO): A person acting as a flight crew member who assists the small UA remote PIC and the person manipulating the controls to see and avoid other air traffic or objects aloft or on the ground.



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41.42.1.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The sUAS Program Manager is responsible for the education, training, and record management of sUAS operations. These responsibilities include:
 - 1. Ensure sUAS operators are effectively able to perform their sUAS duties in a safe and professional manner.
 - 2. Manage sUAS operator training to ensure that departmental and mission specific training needs are addressed.
 - 3. Maintain a list of trained and certified sUAS operator.
 - 4. Identify the training needs of the sUAS program and evaluate internal training options as well as those available through outside agencies or organizations.
 - 5. Act as the lead instructor for internal sUAS program training and designate additional instructors as needed.
 - 6. Coordinate with outside agencies, manufacturers, and other entities to maintain the program's deployment availability and evaluate future needs of the program.
 - 7. Complete or designate maintenance tasks.
 - 8. Maintain documentation for sUAS deployments and maintenance performed.
 - 9. Maintain a working knowledge of current legal and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements, national operating standards, sUAS maintenance requirements, and a detailed understanding of any sUAS platforms operated by the Police Department.

41.42.1.3 CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

A. All sUAS operators must meet FAA certification requirements for remote pilot in command as well as equipment and mission specific training to ensure the safe operation of the sUAS in a public safety capacity. A sUAS may be operated by an officer who is not a certified Remote Pilot in Command if they are being directly supervised by a certified Remote Pilot in Command.



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41.42.1.4 MAINTENANCE

- A. The department shall maintain all sUAS according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- B. The sUAS Program Manager shall Document all maintenance performed on the sUAS.
- C. A damaged sUAS will not be deployed until the necessary repairs have been completed and the unit has been successfully test flown.

41.42.1.5 AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE SUAS

- A. sUAS operations in the national airspace system will be conducted pursuant to 14 CFR Part 107 and may include deviations if written waivers are approved by the FAA.
- B. The sUAS Program Manager maintains Part 107 waivers and related documentation.
- C. Any sUAS operated by the department in the national airspace system will be registered with the FAA and marked with the issued registration number.

41.42.1.6 OPERATIONS

- A. Scope of sUAS operations in furtherance of public safety. Except for training, deployment of a sUAS requires the approval of the division Commander, on-duty patrol supervisor, CIU supervisor or designee. The Chief of Police and Commanders will be notified of a non-training sUAS deployment as soon as reasonable.
- B. All deployments require a certified Remote Pilot in Command, and one or more visual observers who wear clothing identifying them as police officers unless approved by the commander. Documentation of all flights on the appropriate flight log will be completed regardless of length or purpose.
- C. Deployment applications:



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- 1. Critical incidents and tactical operations to locate threats and provide situational awareness to the command post.
- 2. Vehicular accident reconstruction.
- 3. Search and rescue operations.
- 4. Crime scene photography and documentation.
- 5. Official sUAS training of operators or observers.
- 6. To assist with other types of Department or Town training or for the creation of recruitment or marketing recordings or efforts for the Town of Paradise Valley.
- 7. To assist another law enforcement or public safety agency within previously mentioned criteria.

41.42.1.7 PRIVACY

A. Absent a warrant, consent, or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall not fly into or intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of persons, objects, or areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Reasonable precautions can include, for example, deactivating or turning imaging devices away from such persons, objects, or areas during sUAS operations.

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41.42.1.8 RESTRICTIONS

- A. The sUAS will not be weaponized, nor be used for random surveillance activities or mass collection of data.
- B. The sUAS will not be operated in an unsafe manner or in violation of FAA rules.
- C. All sUAS flights will be for official department business or for training purposes only.



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- D. Operations utilizing sUAS will be conducted only by authorized personnel and will comply with all federal, state, local laws, and FAA regulations.
- E. Operation of sUAS will be in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and specifications.

41.42.1.9 DATA COLLECTION

- A. Unless otherwise not applicable by its context, the retention, redaction, release and deletion of all data captured by the sUAS will comply with agency policy on Digital Recording Devices and state law applicable to records retention.
- B. All recorded media, images, and audio are the property of the agency and shall not be copied, released, or disseminated without proper authorization.

